

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02945 040144Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

IO-13 OIC-02 EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00

STR-07 AID-05 ACDA-12 /126 W

-----015235 040723Z /17

R 031015Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0620

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN, US

SUBJECT: ASEAN-US MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

1. CHARGE AND ECON COUNSELOR CALLED ON TAN BOON SENG, DIRECTOR OF MFA POLITICAL DIVISION, JUNE 26 TO DISCUSS RECENT ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AND ASEAN-US MEETING IN AUGUST. TAN ADDED LITTLE TO PREVIOUS REPORTING ON PATTAYA MEETING, ALTHOUGH HE DID MENTION FRANK COMMENTS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM TO FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA. SONODA HAD REVIEWED COMMITMENTS MADE BY FUKUDA LAST YEAR, AND PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO SEE THAT THEY WERE IMPLEMENTED. RAJA STRESSED THAT JAPAN NEEDS ASEAN AND SHOULD SEE THAT IT REMAINS HEALTHY BY GIVING TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE NOW RATHER THAN LATER WHEN PROBLEMS COULD DEVELOP.

2. TAN REPORTED THAT ASEAN MINISTERS AT PATTAYA HAD DECLINED TO DISCUSS VIETNAMESE CALL FOR "ZONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY", MADE AT DINNER  
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 02945 040144Z

IN NEW YORK FOR ASEAN CHIEFS OF MISSION, AND REGRETTED THAT PRESS CONFERENCE HAD DWELT ON SRV PROPOSAL. HE SPECULATED THAT SRV PROPOSAL WAS EITHER MADE AT SOVIET BEHEST TO ANNOY PRC (WHO HAVE SUPPORTED ASEAN'S CALL FOR ZONE OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND NEUTRALITY) OR TO INJECT DIVISIVE SUBJECT INTO PATTAYA DISCUSSIONS.

3. ON ASEAN-US MINISTERIAL MEETING, TAN AGREED THAT SOME ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT "CONCRETE RESULTS" FROM MEETING. HE SAID GOS HAD TRIED TO GET OTHER ASEAN REPS TO FOCUS ON LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF SOUND US-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP AND NOT SOLELY ON SHORT-TERM RESULTS. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD AT ONE POINT BEEN RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED ABOUT GOING TO WASHINGTON AT ALL.

4. WE PROBED FOR ANY INTEREST IN SPECIFIC POLITICAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON. TAN MERELY SUGGESTED THAT AGENDA SEEMED BROAD ENOUGH TO COVER ANY SUBJECTS EITHER SIDE MIGHT WISH TO RAISE.  
INGRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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